

EPHRAIM AND NANCY
ELIZABETH BETHERS SMITH



Ephraim Smith was born in September, 1833, in Tennessee, son of Richard and Diana Bragtal.

He married Nancy Elizabeth Bether on September 28, 1852, and they were parents of 12 children.

Ephraim died on December 28, 1898.

Nancy died on September 4, 1931.

She was a daughter of Zadock S. and Sarah Collins Bether. She moved to Council Bluffs and was there six years before leaving for Utah in the fall of 1852 with her parents in the Joseph Cuthouse company.

Sarah Collins Bether, the mother, was a weaver, so she brought her spinning wheel and looms, also wool, yarn and thread. Sarah and her daughters, Mary Jane and Nancy Elizabeth, carded the wool, spun thread and wove cloth from which clothing for all the family was made. Pioneers around St. George planted cotton and flax from seed they brought with them, and they sent some of these products to the weavers in Heber to be used in weaving cloth.

Nancy's sister, Mary Jane, and Asa B.

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York were married on her (Nancy's) wedding day, at Provo, by James E. Snow.

Ephraim's parents crossed the plains to Utah in 1850. His mother walked the entire distance, because she was afraid of buffalo stampeding through the wagon trains.

In 1860, Ephraim and Nancy, with their family, moved to Heber City, where they built a log cabin and later a large cabin used as a fort to protect women and children. Indians were very bad. They stole cattle and horses and then brought them back, demanding money for them. They stole and returned one of Ephraim's horses five times. The last time he refused to give them money.

This condition finally became intolerable, so the matter was taken up with Brigham Young by Ephraim Smith, who stated that it was absolutely necessary that something be done to stop this depredation. A meeting between the whites and Indians was called. Chief Tabby and some of his braves came in and camped at Ephraim's place. Nancy and other women cooked for them.

At the meeting the Indians were told that if they did not stop stealing, the settlers would have to call out the soldiers and the Indians would be killed. The Indians agreed not to steal any more and the "peace pipe" was passed to all present.

Ephraim had the first and only tannery in Heber. He learned his trade in Tennessee before coming to Utah. He stripped bark from oak trees in the canyons near Heber and hauled to the tannery. He used the Hopper mill to grind the bark, the first mill used to grind flour for the Smiths and others and was the only flour mill for some time. Mr. Smith employed five men at his tannery, making harnesses and shoes and mending shoes. He also made fiddles and violins.

When the Salt Lake Temple was started he sent a team to help in the work and he hauled sandstone rock from Heber for the foundation. He used a spirit level to level a canal which brought water from Provo River into the valley for irrigation purposes.

They were the parents of 12 children: David Ephraim, Hetty Esther Ann, Millie Jane, Joseph Marion, William Albert, James Andrew, Sarah Dinah, Thomas Edward,

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Agnes Elizabeth, Phoebe Jannett, Mary May and George Richard.

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The old Smith home in Heber where many dances were held during the years on the second floor.

add color pict
of Homestead
home

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The old Smith home in Heber where many dances were held during the years on the second floor.

the famous "Bolton Choir" of England and performed on several occasions before Queen Victoria.

Through their training and interest in music, the Forties organized one of the first choirs in Heber Valley. The only music in the beginning was an old Sankt and Moody hymnal which Mr. Fortie had brought from Scotland. There was no organ or piano available for accompaniment, so Mr. Fortie would play the cornet and teach choir members the notes, and then play the cornet while the choir sang their numbers.

When Wasatch Stake was organized, Mr. Fortie became the first stake chorister. By this time an organ had been purchased and Jane H. Turner and Mary Bond were trained as accompanists for choirs and other singing.

Another early music leader in Heber was Roger Horrocks who played a bass viol, which he affectionately called his "Baby." Mr. Horrocks accompanied the choir singing, and provided music for many special programs and dances. Other popular musicians in early Heber included "Hen" Walker, Jim Wheeler and Will Murdock who played the banjo, violin and accordion, and Robert McKnight, a violinist. The Murdock brothers, Tom, Dave, Brig and Joe, along with Dick Duke and Edd Murdock were also popular dance musicians.

In addition to choir singing, music was primarily enjoyed for dancing parties. Orchestras or individual musicians traveled throughout the valley to play for dances and socials. The music for many years con-

*Ephriam
Smith
Home*



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HUSBAND

Born _____ Place _____
Chr. _____ Place _____
Marr. _____ Place _____
Died _____ Place _____
Bur. _____ Place _____

HUSBAND
MOTHER

WIFE

Born _____ Place _____
Chr. _____ Place _____
Died _____ Place _____
Bur. _____ Place _____
WIFE'S FATHER

WIFE'S
MOTHE

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

SEX CHILDRI

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

OTHER MARRIAGE

Husband
Wife

Ephriam SMITH

BEAUTY IS TRUTH



The old Smith home in Heber where many dances were held during the years on the second floor.

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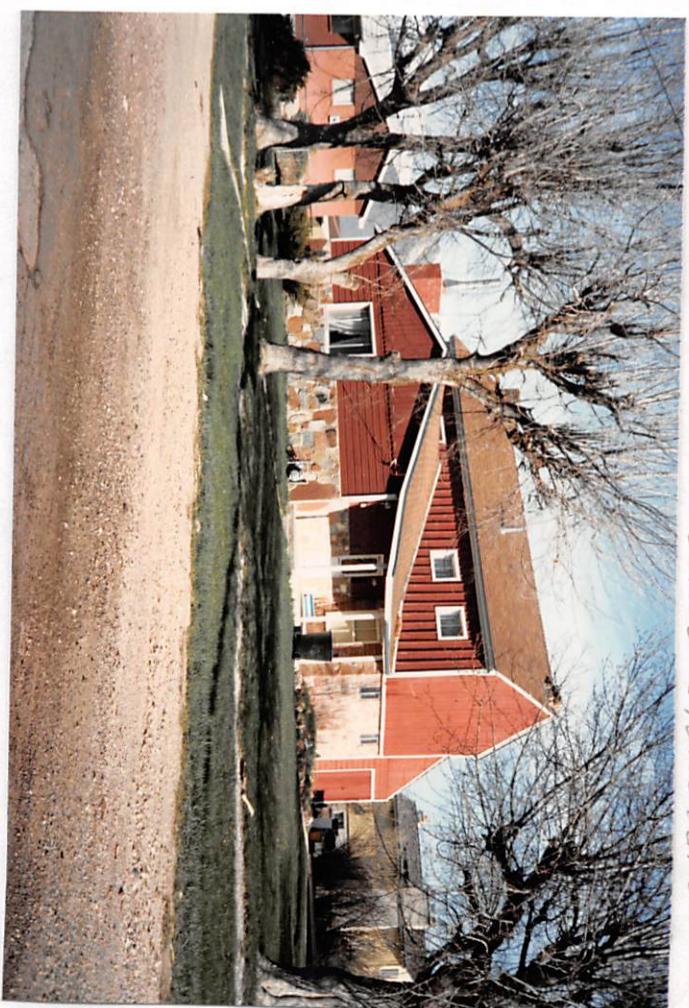
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Old Dance Hall
Center Stoner Part